

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 282723

EXDIS

FOL RPT PARIS 34335 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DTD 25 NOV 77

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 34335

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (PRESIDENT CARTER)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: SUGGESTED SCHEDULE
JANUARY 4-6, 1978

SUMMARY: FRENCH HAVE OFFERED DRAFT SCHEDULE FOR
PRESIDENT'S VISIT, WHICH HAS BEEN APPROVED BY
PRESIDENT GISCARD. IT INCORPORATES AGREED EVENTS
PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED IN CONTEXT OF ABORTIVE EARLY
DECEMBER VISIT. ONE OTHER EVENT WILL REQUIRE CAREFUL
CONSIDERATION AND SEVERAL TECHNICAL QUESTIONS
REMAINED TO BE SOLVED IN SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE ON BOTH
SIDES. EARLY REPLY IS URGENT IN VIEW UPCOMING
HOLIDAY SEASON ABSENCES KEY FRENCH PLANNERS AND
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TECHNICIANS. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT GISCARD'S CHIEF OF CABINET SAUZAY AND
DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR ROBIN CONVOKED DCM TO ELYSEE
PALACE THURSDAY TO PRESENT SCHEDULE, GIVEN BELOW IN
TRANSLATION, ACCOMPANIED BY BRIEF ADDITIONAL
EXPLANATIONS. SCHEDULE WAS REVIEWED IN DETAIL BY

PRESIDENT GISCARD, WHO PERSONALLY MADE SOME CHANGES TO REFLECT HIS PREFERENCES AND IDEAS FOR HIS GUEST. EMBASSY TRANSLATION FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN TRANSLATION: DRAFT PROGRAM FOR THE VISIT TO FRANCE OF MR. JIMMY CARTER, PRESIDENT OF THE USA.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1978.

1:45 PM ARRIVAL AT ORLY. RECEPTION BY MR. VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC. CEREMONY OF RECEPTION, WITH STATEMENTS, IN THE PAVILION OF HONOR IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS. (EMBASSY COMMENT -- PRE-ADVANCE PARTY WILL RECALL THAT PAVILION WILL HOLD ONLY LIMITED NUMBER OF PRESS INDOORS.)

2:30 PM DEPARTURE BY CAR. (EMBASSY COMMENT -- THIS IS ONE OF THE GREAT NEURALGIC POINTS. PRE-ADVANCE WILL RECALL FRENCH ABSOLUTE INSISTANCE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER TRAVEL IN HOST'S OFFICIAL CAR, WHICH THEY HAVE OFFERED TO MODIFY TO PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS ON USSS NET. THEY HAVE NOT DIMINISHED INSISTENCE ON THIS POINT WHICH IS REQUIRED BY GOOD MANNERS, PROTOCOL AND FRENCH NATIONAL PRIDE.)

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2:40 PM ARRIVAL IN PARIS BY THE PORTE D'ORLEANS. THE MOTORCADE WILL MAKE A CIRCUIT OF SEVERAL STREETS OF PARIS TO THE ARC DE TRIOMPHE. LAYING OF WREATH AT THE ARC. TRAVEL DOWN THE CHAMPS ELYSEES BY CAR. ABOUT 3:30 PM ARRIVAL AT OFFICIAL GUESTHOUSE, MARIGNY RESIDENCE. SETTLING IN.

5 PM TO 6 PM. MEETING (TETE-A-TETE) OF THE TWO PRESIDENTS AT ELYSEE PALACE.

8 PM. LIMITED WORKING DINNER AT THE ELYSEE, 40 PEOPLE, BUSINESS SUIT. (EMBASSY COMMENT -- SAUZAY AND ROBIN INDICATED THAT THIS WOULD BE STAG DINNER.) PARTICIPATION BY SOME MEMBERS OF THE TWO DELEGATIONS AND BY A NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND SOME POLITICAL PERSONALITIES.

3. THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 1987.

THE MORNING WOULD BE DEVOTED TO TRIP TO NORMANDY AS FOLLOWS:

DEPARTURE BY PLANE FROM PARIS TO CAEN. (COMMENT: SAUZAY AND ROBIN INDICATED 9 OR 9:30 AS DESIRABLE DEPARTURE TIME.) HELICOPTER FLIGHT OVER JUNE 6, 1944 BEACHES. MEMORIAL CEREMONY AT THE AMERICAN MILITARY CEMETERY OMAHA BEACH. VISIT TO STE MERE-EGLISE. (COMMENT: FRENCH INTERLOCUTORS SAID THAT VISIT TO THIS TYPICAL VILLAGE BEHIND UTAH BEACH WOULD INCLUDE HAND-

SHAKING OPPORTUNITY WITH CROWD OF PRO-AMERICAN NORMANS, A BRIEF CHURCH SERVICE OF PERHAPS TEN MINUTES IN THE CHURCH, FROM WHOSE STEEPLE AN AMERICAN PARATROOPER DANGLED MOST OF THE NIGHT OF JUNE 5TH, 1944, AND A STOP AT MILESTONE ZERO, WHICH COMMEMORATES THE AMERICAN AND ALLIED BREAKOUT FROM THE BEACHES IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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CAMPAIGN WHICH LIBERATED FRANCE. MILESTONE SERIES FOLLOWS ROUTE OF PATTON'S ARMY TO THE RHINE.) INSOFAR AS TIME PERMITS EITHER AT THE ARRIVAL IN THE AREA OR AT THE DEPARTURE A DRIVE THROUGH ONE CITY, EITHER CAEN OR BAYEUX. (COMMENT -- ELYSEE EXPERTS RECOMMEND BAYEUX TAPESTRY, DEPICTING INVASION OF WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR, OVER CAEN. EMBASSY AGREES.)

RETURN TO PARIS TO BE MADE BY TRAIN, WITH LUNCHEON BEING SERVED ON THE TRAIN FOR THE TWO CHIEFS OF STATE.

ABOUT 3:30 PM, ARRIVAL AT PARIS ST. LAZARE STATION.

ABOUT 4:00 PM ARRIVAL AT MARIGNY RESIDENCE.

5:00 PM. PRESIDENT CARTER COULD SPEAK TO THE PRESS OR IF HE WISHES, HAVE MEETINGS AT THE EMBASSY OR THE MARIGNY.

8:00 PM. DINNER AT THE GRAND TRIANON OF VERSAILLES FOR 140. DRESS EITHER BLACK TIE OR DARK BUSINESS SUIT AS PREFERRED. TOASTS.

9:30 PM. RECEPTION AT THE CHATEAU DE VERSAILLES. (2500 TO 3000 GUESTS.)

4. FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 1978.

9:30 TO 11:00 AM. PRIVATE MEETING OF TWO PRESIDENTS, FOLLOWED BY ENLARGED MEETING AT ELYSEE PALACE INCLUDING OTHER FRENCH AND AMERICAN OFFICIALS.

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12:30 PM. DEPARTURE FROM THE MARIGNY; PRESIDENT CARTER ACCOMPANIED TO ORLY BY PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING.

1:00 PM. WHEELS UP. END TRANSLATION

5. MESSRS SAUZAY AND ROBIN STRESSED THE URGENCY OF EARLY REPLY BY THE WHITE HOUSE TO THIS DRAFT SCHEDULE. SETTLEMENT OF BROAD OUTLINES OF SCHEDULE WOULD PERMIT EARLY START ON PROGRAMMING FOR MRS. CARTER AND MME. GISCARD, WHILE NECESSITY FOR FRENCH TO ADVANCE THEIR PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO IVORY COAST, WHICH IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWS PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT, WILL TAKE FRENCH EXPERTS AND PLANNERS OUT OF COUNTRY WEEK OF DECEMBER 19-23. VERY LITTLE TIME IS THUS AVAILABLE. THEY URGE THAT ADVANCE TEAM PLAN TO BE IN PLACE AT LEAST A COUPLE OF WORK-DAYS BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE FOR IVORY COAST.

6. EMBASSY COMMENT: WITH EXCEPTION OF WORKING DINNER EVENING OF JANUARY 4TH, AND INVERSION OF TRAIN-PLANE TRANSPORT TO AND FROM NORMANDY, THIS SCHEDULE APPEARS TO CONFORM TO EVENTS AGREED ON IN EARLIER EXCHANGES. OTHER CRUCIAL PLANNING PROBLEM CONCERNS TRAVEL OF TWO

PRESIDENTS TOGETHER IN FRENCH MEANS OF TRANSPORT, AUTOMOBILE, HELICOPTER, PLANE. FRENCH WILL INSIST AS HOSTS THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEIR PRESIDENT (WHO IS NOTORIOUS FOR HIS SCRUPULOUS INSISTENCE ON PROTOCOLARY NICETIES) TO TRAVEL IN VISITOR'S AUTOMOBILE OR AIRCRAFT. IN ANY CASE, GIVEN LIKELIHOOD OF WET RUNWAYS IN JANUARY AT DEAUVILLE AND CHERBOURG, NEAREST NORMANDY AIRPORTS LARGE ENOUGH FOR AF ONE, PLANE TRIP WILL HAVE TO BE MADE BY SMALLER PLANES. WE HAVE ALREADY CONCEDED THE POINT REGARDING USE OF FRENCH TRAIN, AND EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT

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INSISTENCE ON OUR SECURITY PRACTICES AND REFUSAL TO ACCEPT FRENCH-OFFERED COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES IN THEIR VEHICLE AND AIRCRAFT IS LIKELY TO CREATE ILL-WILL SUFFICIENT TO THREATEN OBJECTIVES OF THE VISIT IF PUSHED TO THE HILT.

7. AS TO ISSUE OF PLANE-UP TRAIN-BACK TO AND FROM

NORMANDY OR VICE VERSA, DCM MENTIONED LIVE COVERAGE
BY US DOMESTIC, MORNING TV SHOWS AS CONSIDERATION
FAVORING SCHEDULING NORMANDY PROGRAM BETWEEN ONE AND
THREE PM AFTER TRAIN TRIP UP. FRENCH COUNTERED THAT
HOLDING NORMANDY PROGRAM IN LATE MORNING AFTER PLANE
TRIP WOULD PERMIT LUNCHEON ON SOUTHBOUND TRAIN.
EMBASSY BELIEVES FRENCH ARE NOT IRRETRIEVABLY WEDDED
TO THEIR ORDER OF TRAVEL.

8. REQUEST DEPARTMENT AND WHITE HOUSE REPLY URGENTLY,
NOTING THAT SUBSTANCE OF THE REPLY ORIGINATES AT
HIGHEST LEVEL OF USG.
HARTMAN UNQUOTE VANCE

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